

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service****50 CFR Part 17****Reopening of the Comment Period for the Draft Recovery Plan for the Aquatic and Riparian Species of Pahrnagat Valley**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of reopening of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the reopening of the comment period for public review of a draft recovery plan for the aquatic and riparian species of Pahrnagat Valley. This plan undertakes an ecosystem approach by discussing the recovery needs of three native, endangered fish species. The Service solicits any additional review and comment from the public on this draft plan.

**DATES:** Additional comments on the draft recovery received by November 5, 1997 will be considered by the Service.

**ADDRESSES:** Persons wishing to review the draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting the Acting State Supervisor, Nevada State Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4600 Kietzke Lane, Suite 125C, Reno, Nevada 89502 (telephone: 702-784-5227), or the Assistant Regional Director, Klamath and California Ecoregions, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Eastside Federal Complex, 911 NE 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4181 (telephone: 503-231-6241). Written comments and materials regarding the plan should be addressed to Mr. Chester C. Buchanan, Acting State Supervisor, at the above Reno, Nevada address. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above Reno, Nevada address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Stephanie Byers at the above Reno, Nevada address (telephone: 702-784-5227).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background**

Restoring endangered or threatened animals and plants to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining members of their ecosystems is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the

United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for reclassification or delisting, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and other Federal agencies will also take these comments into account in the course of implementing participation plans developed with all affected parties and interests.

On May 28, 1997, the Service received a letter from the County Commissioners of Lincoln County, Nevada, requesting the extended comment period. The Service appreciates the assistance of the Commissioners and therefore reopens the comment period on this plan. After completing the plan, the Service will continue to work with the Commissioners and other local parties in the implementation of the recovery plan.

Three native, endangered fish species are endemic to the Pahrnagat Valley in Lincoln County, Nevada. The Pahrnagat roundtail chub is found in only 12 km of the Pahrnagat River. The White River springfish is found only in the spring pool of Ash Spring. The Hiko White River springfish is found in the spring pools of Hiko and Crystal Springs. Populations of Pahrnagat roundtail chub vary between 150 to 250 adult fish. The White River springfish population is stable with approximately 7,000 fish. The Hiko White River springfish population is critically low (<35) in Crystal Spring and more common (approximately 5,500 fish) in Hiko Spring. The principle causes of decline for these species are habitat modification and nonnative fish introductions. Critical habitat has been designated for the two subspecies of springfish. Ninety-five percent of the habitats occupied by these species are on private lands. Recovery of these species will require removal and/or control of nonnative fishes, and restoration and protection of occupied habitats developed in cooperation with local landowners.

**Public Comments Solicited**

The Service solicits any and all additional written comments on the recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified will be considered prior to approval of the plan.

**Authority**

The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: July 30, 1997.

**David L. McMullen,**

*Acting Regional Director.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service****50 CFR Part 17****Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 90-Day Finding for a Petition to List the Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) in Eastern North America as Endangered or Threatened**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of 90-day petition finding and initiation of status review.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces a 90-day finding for a petition to list the eastern North America population of the harlequin duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) as an endangered or threatened species throughout its range under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The Service finds that the petition presents substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that listing the population may be warranted. The Service is initiating a status review to determine if listing the population is warranted.

**DATES:** The finding announced in this document was made on July 31, 1997. To be considered in the 12-month finding for this petition, information and comments should be submitted to the Service by October 6, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Information, comments, or questions concerning this petition should be submitted to the Field Supervisor, New England Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 22 Bridge Street, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-4986. The petition finding, supporting data, and comments are available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.